

Appln No. 10/753,132
Amdt date September 5, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 21, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Specification.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A storage container for preset unalterable control of access by users comprising:

a housing;

a cover hingedly attached to the housing;

a lock incorporated into the cover for locking the cover to the housing;

the lock being programmed to automatically reset to ~~[[the]]~~a locked mode if the cover is ~~even partially~~ opened and to immediately lock the cover to the housing upon closure;

programming means for controlling the lock for defining ~~space~~ non-overlapping first predetermined time periods intervals of accessibility to the container and second predetermined time periods of inaccessibility to the container and denying access to the container ~~therein~~ without exception during the second predetermined time period ~~at all other times and;~~ and

a power supply for providing electric power to the programming means.

2. (Original) A container according to claim 1 wherein the lock comprises an electro-mechanical mechanism.

3. (Original) A container according to claim 2 wherein the mechanism comprises one or more retractable bolts.

4. (Original) A container according to claim 3 wherein the lock comprises two reciprocating bolts which move in opposite directions to lock the cover to the housing.

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5. (Original) A container according to claim 1 wherein the cover is detachable from the housing.
6. (Currently amended) A container according to claim 5 wherein the cover includes shaped protrusions extending from ~~one side~~ opposite sides of the cover.
7. (Original) A container according to claim 6 wherein the housing includes detents for receiving and gripping the protrusions on the cover.
8. (Original) A container according to claim 2 wherein the engagement of the protrusions and detents is by means of a snap fit.
9. (Original) A container according to claim 4 wherein the rim of the housing includes receptacles adapted to receive the reciprocating bolts.
10. (Previously presented) A container according to claim 1 wherein the programming means is a programmable microprocessor operatively connected to the cover.
11. (Original) A container according to claim 10 wherein the programming means includes a processor assembly incorporating the microprocessor, an electronic memory, control keys, and a display for receiving and displaying the parameters incorporated into the container.
12. (Original) A container according to claim 8 wherein the housing and cover include mutually engaging stops to prevent travel of the cover more than 70° from the closed position.
13. (Previously presented) A container according to claim 8 wherein the hinged connection is configured to limit travel of the cover and to allow the force of gravity to consistently return the cover to the closed position.
14. (Original) A container according to claim 4 wherein the bolts are spring-loaded.

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15. (Currently amended) A container according to claim 14 wherein the bolts retract one time during each of the ~~intervals~~ first predetermined time periods of accessibility previously defined by the user, and only in response to some physical input by the user.
16. (Currently amended) A container according to claim 15 wherein the bolts extend into the locked position when the door is even partially opened and immediately engage the housing upon closure of the cover onto the housing.
17. (Original) A container according to claim 1 wherein the power supply is incorporated into the programmable processor assembly.
18. (Original) A container according to claim 17 wherein the power supply is only accessible when the cover is in the open position.
19. (Currently amended) A programmable, automatically closing, and automatically locking storage container for preset unalterable control of access to its contents by users, comprising:
a housing;
a cover, said cover being attached to said housing by hinged moldings;
a computer controlled lock incorporated into the cover for locking the cover to the housing to prevent unauthorized or unscheduled access to the contents of the container;
the lock being configured to automatically reset to ~~[[the]]~~ a locked mode when the cover is opened and to immediately lock the cover to the housing upon the closure of the cover;
a programmable computer incorporated into the container for controlling the lock, said programmable computer being programmed to accept and store multiple variables and parameters for defining ~~spaced-non-overlapping~~ first predetermined time periods ~~intervals~~ of accessibility and second predetermined time periods of non-accessibility, and for denying access without exception at all other times during the second predetermined time periods; and
a power supply incorporated into the cover that can be accessed only when the cover is in the open position.
20. (Currently amended) A method for disciplining behavior comprising the steps of:

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programming a lockable enclosure to permit the user to unlock ~~[[it]]~~ the lockable enclosure only during specific ~~spaced~~ first predetermined time periods ~~intervals~~ in a 24-hour period as defined by the user during programming; and

denying access to the enclosure without exception during second predetermined time periods ~~at all other times other than during one of the specific spaced time intervals~~ to produce acceptance of the disciplined behavior without the need of the programmed enclosure, the first predetermined time periods and the second predetermined time periods being non-overlapping.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20 wherein the first predetermined time periods ~~spaced time intervals~~ occur in repeating 24-hour period cycles.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21 including the step of providing an opportunity for the enclosure to be re-programmed during a specific ~~multi-day~~ first predetermined time period ~~interval~~ following the last programming.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein the device includes unalterable system programming defining a repeating cyclical number of days, following the initial programming period, that culminates with a period of time during which the programmed schedule may be re-defined.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22 wherein the enclosure is a food container.

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein the enclosure is a container for medicines non-food products.